

Obituary.



GEO. W. CAMPBELL, A.M., M.D., LL.D.,

Dean of the Medical Faculty, McGill University.

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It is with no ordinary feelings of sorrow and deep regret that we find ourselves called upon to record the death of our oldest surgeon, Prof. Geo. W. Campbell. On the 30th March last Dr. Campbell attended the annual convocation of McGill University, and took leave of his friends and colleagues, as he was leaving for England the following day. No one who saw him that day, no whit less cheerful and active than usual, for one moment dreamt that this city would so soon be shocked by the telegraphic news of his death in a far-off country. But so it was. For some years past Dr. Campbell suffered from bronchitis, and was obliged to retire from active practice and give himself more rest. He had also suffered from slight attacks of pneumonia. When in London, pneumonia again set in, but being somewhat better, he went to Edinburgh, where, however, more serious symptoms showed themselves, and he expired on the 30th May.

In losing Dr. Campbell, an immense loss has been sustained by the whole of this community. The Faculty of Medicine loses its Dean—its tried and trusty general, who has directed its operations with a master hand for many years. The Hospital loses its senior consulting surgeon—him whose opinion always carried the weight of experience and mature judgment. Our greatest financial institutions lose one who has been found worthy to fill posts of the highest trust and confidence. The general public lose one to whom they could always go for sympathy in distress and relief in extremity. His friends—and their name, indeed, is legion—lose a warm-hearted, true and generous friend. His professional brethren in this district lose their chief—that chief who, from his personal and professional worth, retained for so many years the loyalty and devotion of all.

One, indeed, has gone from amongst us, of whom it has been a common remark that, "take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again." This feeling has been produced by the rare combination of good and attractive qualities which found themselves so happily associated together in our estimable Dean. As a professional man—and he was that before all things—in how many ways was he an example to us all,—able, skillful, devoted, untiring towards his patients—courteous, generous and invariably considerate towards his *confrères*—energetic, zealous and enthusiastic in all touching the progress of the medical art and science—always upholding, by word and deed, the dignity of that profession to which he was proud to belong—kind and encouraging to every brother honestly practising his profession in a straight path, but an uncompromising foe to every kind of professional dishonesty or hypocrisy. No wonder that there gradually grew up for such a man a feeling of rare warmth and affection, a feeling which we know to be shared by all within our ranks. No matter how else divided, on this point there was unanimity, viz., that in Dr. Campbell we recognized a noble example, whom to imitate was to do right.

With Dr. Campbell has passed away one of those links, now so few, which joined the present generation of medical practitioners to a past one. Possessed of the best technical education which was afforded at that day, Dr. Campbell came to this new country to make his own way in the world. How well this was accomplished, and what well-merited success he met with, is known to all. Whilst thus pursuing his way to name and fame, no selfish aims were ever allowed to obstruct his exertions in the common cause. Endowed with great strength of character, combined with an excellent judgment in all the ordinary concerns of life, he always interested himself in every

scheme tending to the promotion of the general good. Firm and fixed in his endeavors to attain an object once definitely settled upon as being desirable, his great influence was naturally always sought for and highly prized.

Not only was Dr. Campbell deservedly looked up to as the leading surgeon of the city, but he was held in the warmest estimation as a citizen. His voice and influence were always to be counted upon to assist in any good work, and many an undertaking to-day in flourishing condition, and on a firm basis, owes the success of its early efforts to the assistance then lent it by this public-spirited man. The greatest of our public charities, the Montreal General Hospital, always claimed and received a large share of his fostering care. In every matter connected with the medical management of this large Institution, the advice of Dr. Campbell was looked for, and time and attention to its interests were given ungrudgingly and without stint. It is not for us to speak of the many marks of the esteem in which he was held amongst our merchants and laymen—the many posts he has held, of themselves, speak for this. He was for many years Director, and lately Vice-President of the Bank of Montreal, and also Director in the City Gas Company, the Montreal Telegraph Company, and many others. He will long be remembered amongst his fellow-citizens as a clear-headed and judicious business-man, possessing qualities in this respect sufficiently uncommon amongst medical men.

For nearly half a century Dr. Campbell's name has been identified with the Medical Faculty of McGill University, and it is largely due to his ability as a teacher of surgery that that school attained the high degree of popularity which it has so long enjoyed. As its Dean, he always possessed the fullest confidence of his colleagues, and, under his able management, its policy was always

dignified and liberal, whilst internal dissensions were entirely unknown.

Dr. Campbell did not write much for the medical journals. "Deeds, not words," was his motto. But his work as a successful teacher, and as a member of the Corporation of the University, led to the appropriate bestowal of the honorary degree of LL.D. His style of lecturing was free from all oratorical effort, but it was clear, forcible and impressive. Hundreds of practitioners throughout this continent and elsewhere owe the foundations of their surgical knowledge to Dr. Campbell's early teaching.

As the acknowledged head of the profession in Montreal, he was often called upon to entertain strangers and professional visitors, and most worthily did he perform this duty. His house always held for such, a warm welcome, and we know that the news of his death will bring sorrow to many who have there received a true warm-hearted Scotch reception. He was an excellent host; his pleasant, cheery manner, his sparkling reminiscences, his stores of learning always bright, his animated conversation, made an evening spent in his company always something to be remembered. He took great pleasure in seeing his friends around him, and all know well the kindly and generous hospitality which for years has been dispensed from his house by himself and his talented family.

Dr. G. W. Campbell was born in Roseneath, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, in the year 1810. He entered early upon his medical studies, which he pursued in the Universities of Glasgow and Dublin. After graduating with distinction, he came to Canada in May, 1833, and settled in Montreal. His marked ability soon placed him in the front rank amongst his compeers, and gave him a large share of city practice. The success following him naturally led to his being very frequently called in consultation by his *confrères*; and for a great many years be-

fore his death very few cases of any importance were treated in this city without the advice of Dr. Campbell having been obtained. His sound knowledge of pathology, and naturally clear insight into the varying shades of distinction between clinical conditions apt to resemble each other, made him an expert in diagnosis. Surgery was always his *forte*, and his great reputation was chiefly made by many successful achievements in operative work. In 1835 Dr. Campbell was appointed to the Chair of Surgery in McGill University, which position he continued to hold with credit to himself and great advantage to the school until 1875—exactly 40 years—when, owing to failing health, he resigned. He was made Dean of the Faculty in 1860, taking then the place of the late Dr. Holmes. The duties of this office he fulfilled even after his resignation of the Chair of Surgery, and it was only in March last that Prof. Howard was appointed Acting Dean in order to relieve him of some necessary work and supply his place during temporary absences.

The example of such a man as Dr. Campbell cannot fail to be productive of great good. An accomplished physician and skillful surgeon, an upright, honorable citizen, a kind and considerate friend to the poor, a loved and honored counsellor of the rich, zealous in business but scrupulously honorable, a firm protector of the dignity of his profession, and, above all, a thoroughly consistent Christian gentleman.